

Letter to Edmund Gabriel, 25 March 1860

David Livingstone

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11 Mazaro, Zambesi River
25 March 1860

My Dear Friend

After the very
scurvy letter I sent you last
I feel bound to write you
again though I have nothing to
say - but I see that our friend
Brand is appointed to Lagos
and as we have succeeded in
rendering the fever here not
more formidable than a common
cold it may be a good service
to let him know through
you how we treat it. We cure
it quickly, and without loss of
strength to the patient by a pill
with which we shall cut out
Holloway when we have finished
with Africa - It is composed
of, for a full grown man, eight
grains of Resin of Jalap - the

Our little steamer is quite done - We have 35 patches on her bottom
held on by 60 bolts - The steel plate has undergone a peculiar chemical
decomposition and is full of minute holes besides - yours
Affy D. Livingstone

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same quantity of Calomel - four
or six grains of Rhubarb &
the same quantity of quinine
the whole well rubbed together
in a mortar & made into pills
with a few drops of the Tincture
of Cardamoms - will relieve
any fever we have on this
coast. Decreasing doses serve -

Half a grain of the mass has
now as much effect on us
as the 24 or 28 grains formerly
had - It is what I found best
for my attacks when alone.
It produces a terrible row inside
but all after effects are avoided
A fellow with his head like to
split or another in a state of
somniaolency is relieved in a few
hours so that we have called
them "Rousers." A weaker man
than Brand would be operated
on by four g^{rs} of the first ingredient
and three of the latter -

Well we are determined to
get a small steamer on the Lake
Nyassa and now send our
engineer M^r Rae home to superintend
its construction. If Government

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wont afford the means I have a
few Thousand Pounds from my
book and have ordered them
to be spent therein - I want a
few settlers for I think that a
few good industrious English
afforded protection by the steamer
would do more to eradicate
slavery on a large section of the
East coast than several cruisers
on the ocean - The Portuguese
are a nuizance in the way but
I am in hopes that Lord John
Russell will get us freedom of
navigation on the Zambesi to our
discoveries by parts of the river
and of the Shire with which these
people do nothing - Here they are
much more degraded than with you
very few in number & awfully
immoral - Our painter joined their
orgies & was dishonest so I had to
send him away. We are hated
as sort of standing protests against
vice and uncleanness.

Allow me to congratulate you
on your promotion - Will this

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involve another ten years service?
Hope your naval companion is
agreeable I begin to believe
Bedingfeld's repeated declaration that
"half of the naval Captains are mad"
A captain Gordon of "Hermes" came
up with us to Mazaro in his boats - We
parted good friends, but Bedingfeld &
he having quarrelled with the Captain
of the Pearl, Gordon subsequently
wrote a letter to Bedingfeld & sent
me a copy - In it he blames Duncan
severely and accuses me of several
falsehoods and insultingly alludes to
the losses of men by Machine & Berkeley
on the bars of Quilimane & Luabo as
attributable to "D^r Li undertakings" - I had
no more idea of stating what was untrue
than I have now of swearing at you -
Gordon asserts that it is untrue that masse[s][...] of
putridity were exposed to view after I had
taken charge of this vessel though at the tim[e]
it happened he was at Simon's Bay - D^r Kir[...][k]
certified it on the spot, and Bedingfeld had neglec[ted][...] my
orders about it - Every other statement is
made on mere hearsay & it is plain that
Bedingfeld has made a mere windbag of
him - I would have sent it home but though[t][...] it
more christian to write & explain the orders
under which I acted and the points of which
he had no personal knowledge, but this
affair does not increase my respect for R.N. -